

February 13, 2017

To: Appropriations Committee

Fm: James W. Stowe

Re: Proposed drastic CT Pistol permit fee increases solution.

I propose the following:

1. Remove pistol permitting responsibilities entirely from municipalities. Currently, the municipalities have a majority of the burden in the application process, and that work is entirely useless in terms of public safety.
2. All permits would be issued directly, the same day at the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit (SLFU) at DESPP headquarters in Middletown, Connecticut for a flat application fee of \$100 which includes the \$16.75 IAFIS query fee. No state background check fee (currently \$50) is authorized by law anyway, and this is a good time to eliminate that illegal fee.
3. SLFU already conducts the same IAFIS checks and their own instant in-house state conviction history database search immediately when an application is submitted. IAFIS is guaranteed to return fingerprint results in [less than two hours](#). Pistol permit issuance times are thus decreased from months to a few hours, reducing employee processing expense, time and effort.
4. Remove any and all 'suitability' requirements from the Connecticut General Statutes, which are a catch-all that allow local issuing authorities to deny people their right to armed self-defense on arbitrary and capricious grounds, which are often overturned on appeal at the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners.

Utilizing this simple plan, the legislature could work to remove waste all over the state in municipal and state departments, saving countless amounts of money, retaining the same or increased levels of public safety, and keeping the public safe by expediting their ability to defend themselves.

Respectfully,

*James W. Stowe*

Derby, CT